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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST-NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,813	12/07/2001	Naohiko Noguchi	P21778	7756

7055 7590 03/26/2004

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RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

GODDARD, BRIAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2004

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/004,813

Applicant(s)

NOGUCHI ET AL

Examiner

Brian Goddard

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,991,798 to Ozaki et al.

Referring to claim 1, Ozaki discloses the file management method as claimed. See Figures 1-7 & 11-26 and the corresponding portions of Ozaki's specification for this disclosure. Ozaki teaches "a file management method for recording on a recording medium [See Figs. 1-2] and managing a distributed object [file – e.g. web page, image, etc.] and metadata file [See Fig. 9], wherein correspondence between an identifier of a metadata file [502] and an identifier of an object [501] corresponding to that metadata file is managed by means of a metadata correspondence management file [50]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 2, Ozaki discloses the file management method as claimed. See Figures 5-9 and the corresponding portions of Ozaki's specification for this disclosure. Ozaki teaches the method of claim 1, as above, wherein the method manages the object and metadata file by means of a directory structure [See Figs. 6-7], wherein a record type [503/603] indicating a placement location of said metadata correspondence management file [directory 602 & file name 502] within said directory structure is provided in said metadata correspondence management file as claimed.

Referring to claim 3, Ozaki discloses the file management method as claimed. See Figures 5-9 and the corresponding portions of Ozaki's specification for this disclosure. Ozaki teaches the method of claim 2, as above, further managing a service directory [See Fig. 6] for each service by which said object is distributed, wherein said record type [603] indicates that said metadata correspondence management file is placed under said service directory [602] as claimed.

Referring to claim 4, Ozaki discloses the file management method as claimed. See Figures 5-9 and the corresponding portions of Ozaki's specification for this disclosure. Ozaki teaches the method of claim 2, as above, further recording a package directory [602] for each package file [601] with at least one content, wherein said record type [603] indicates that said metadata correspondence management file is placed under said package directory [See Fig. 6] as claimed.

Referring to claim 5, Ozaki discloses the file management method as claimed. See Figures 5-9 and the corresponding portions of Ozaki's specification for this disclosure. Ozaki teaches the method of claim 4, as above wherein said record type

[503/603] indicates a distinction [702/904] as to whether a metadata file included in said metadata correspondence management file corresponds to a package [from disk (See Figs. 6-7)] or corresponds to a service [from transmitter (by email)] as claimed.

Referring to claim 6, Ozaki discloses the file management method as claimed. See Figures 5-9 and the corresponding portions of Ozaki's specification for this disclosure. Ozaki's record type [503/603] indicates a distinction [702/904] as to whether a metadata file included in said metadata correspondence management file corresponds to a package file [root file for package] or content contained in a package file [content files of package] as claimed.

Referring to claims 7-10, Ozaki discloses the file management method as claimed. See Figures 1-9 and the corresponding portions of Ozaki's specification for this disclosure. Ozaki teaches the method of claim 1, as above, wherein the metadata correspondence management file indicates a one-to-one, many-to-one, one-to-many, or many-to-many relationship between object identifier(s) [501] and metadata file identifier(s) [502] as claimed. See Figures 5-7 for the details of this disclosure.

Referring to claim 11, Ozaki discloses the file management method as claimed. See Figures 5-9 and the corresponding portions of Ozaki's specification for this disclosure. Ozaki teaches the method of claim 1, as above, comprising:

creating a directory [602] for each package [See Fig. 6] when said object is said package file;

recording on the basis of said directory a content file contained in the relevant package and a metadata file corresponding to that content [See Figs. 5-7 and the discussion regarding claim 1 above];

managing with a package management file [disk management table (See Fig. 6)] correspondence between a directory name of a directory and a package identifier assigned to said package;

managing with a content file group management file [disk link management table (See Fig. 7)] correspondence between a file name when said content file and said metadata file are recorded on said recording medium and an identifier of said content and metadata; and

managing correspondence between an identifier...[See claim 1 above] as claimed.

Claim 12 is rejected on the same basis as claim 11, in light of the basis for claims 3 and 4 above. See the discussions regarding claims 1-4 and 11 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claim 13 is rejected on the same basis as claim 1. See the discussion regarding claim 1 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claim 14 is rejected on the same basis as claims 2-5, in light of the basis for claim 13. See the discussions regarding claims 1-5 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claim 15 is rejected on the same basis as claim 1. See the discussion regarding claim 1 above, as well as the cited portions of Ozaki's specification, for the details of this disclosure.

Claim 16 is rejected on the same basis as claim 4, in light of the basis for claim 15. See the discussions regarding claims 1, 2 and 4 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claim 17 is rejected on the same basis as claim 3. See the discussions regarding claims 1-3 above, as well as the cited portions of Ozaki's specification, for the details of this disclosure.

Claim 18 is rejected on the same basis as claim 4, in light of the basis for claim 17. See the discussions regarding claims 1-4 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claim 19 is rejected on the same basis as claim 1. See the discussion regarding claim 1 above for the details of this disclosure.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,609,123 to Cazemier et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,662,188 to Rasmussen et al. are each considered particularly pertinent to applicants' claimed invention.

The remaining prior art of record is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure, and/or portions of applicants' claimed invention.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Goddard whose telephone number is 703-305-7821. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bdg
19 March 2004


SAFET METJAHIC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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